

~~SECRET~~

(Draft - Proposed Press Release)

NEW RANGER ROLE

Ranger training and the theory and practice of Ranger operations will be extended into all combat elements of the Army's Divisions, General J. Lawton Collins, Chief of Staff, United States Army, disclosed today.

Essentially, the Army Ranger is an expert scout, trained to a fine edge in the art of the individual rifleman. He is the descendent of such great soldiers as Morgan's Riflemen and the scouts of Indian War days.

Training of the Army traditionally has emphasized scouting and patrolling. The decision to develop individual Ranger cells within the combat units of the standard divisions, however, is an innovation designed to build each man to the top of his capabilities as an individual soldier. Experience has shown that the effectiveness of a soldier increases in direct proportion to the degree of confidence he possesses in his equipment, his leadership, and most important, in his own ability. Ranger Training is designed to develop this confidence.

Recasting the role of the Ranger in the Army revolved about the key question, "How can the Army use this highly skilled soldier to best advantage?"

During World War II, Ranger battalions were organized and employed with great effect as elite units. Their combat assignments were varied, but in general they operated as shock troops.

~~SECRET~~

SECRET

At the beginning of the Korean conflict, Ranger units of company size were trained and organized to operate as special mission units. Each Infantry division was assigned a Ranger company.

The experience of a year's combat in Korea has shown the special-mission Ranger company to be a highly effective combat unit. However, replacements for the Ranger company had to be outstanding volunteers in order to preserve unit quality. The result was a loss of many potential combat leaders which the division needed.

In addition, special missions performed by the Ranger units, such as deep reconnaissance penetrations, could be performed equally as well by airborne units. One further point developed was that Ranger cells within the rifle units of the division would provide skilled troops in each such unit capable of performing difficult reconnaissance missions on their own. Ranger cells in the division will provide a leaven of superior soldiers who will stimulate the entire unit to higher performance and the individual to greater development.

In the future, Ranger training will be continued as an adjunct of The Infantry School, Fort Benning, Georgia, where selected individuals will receive a course of instruction in Ranger tactics. Upon completion of their training, these individuals will return to their parent organizations to serve as instructors therein.

SECRET